

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 24, 2006. Claims 1 to 87 are pending. Claims 1, 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65 are amended by this response for clarification purposes. Specifically, Applicant clarifies that the sets of second components can, but are not required to, include the same number of second components. Further, Applicant clarifies that a first one of the first components and a second one of the first components simultaneously have a fixed relationship with different sets of second components. No new matter is added by this response.

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 the amount of \$790.00 to cover the cost of the RCE and for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

The Office Action rejected:

- (a) Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16-19, 21-31, 33-37, 39-44, 46-51, 53-56, 58-63, 65-68, 70-74 and 76-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,904 to Locke et al. ("Locke");
- (b) Claims 7, 20, 32, 45, 57 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke; and
- (c) Claims 13, 15, 27, 38, 52, 64 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0065126 to Miller et al. ("Miller").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device operated under control of a processor. The gaming device includes a game operable upon a wager by a player, a plurality of first components, a plurality of sets of second components, an award and at least one display device. Each set of second components has a fixed relationship with one of the first components, and each of the first components has a fixed relationship with one of the sets of second components. A first one of the first components and a second one of the first components simultaneously have a fixed relationship with different sets of second components. The award is adapted to be provided to the player

and is based on one of the first components generated from the plurality of first components and one of the second components generated from one of the sets of second components having a fixed relationship with the generated first component. The at least one display device is controlled by the processor and is operable to display the first components, the sets of second components and the award.

Locke discloses a gaming device having a bonus game in which a player receives a plurality of free spins. In each spin, a set of multipliers is available. Prior to a free spin, one of the multipliers is randomly selected. Col. 4, Lines 15-20. If the player receives an award from the outcome of the reels on a free spin, the award associated with the reel outcome is multiplied by the selected multiplier. Col. 4, Lines 35-40. The set of multipliers available can remain the same from free spin to free spin or can change. Col. 5, Line 60 – Col. 6, Line 13. However, at no time are two reel outcomes for a free spin simultaneously associated with different sets of possible multipliers. To the contrary, on each free spin, all possible outcomes are associated with the same set of multipliers. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Locke does not disclose or suggest a plurality of sets of second components wherein a first one of a plurality of first components and a second one of the first components simultaneously have a fixed relationship with different sets of second components as in Claim 1.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Locke combined with Miller does not render obvious a plurality of sets of second components wherein a first one of a plurality of first components and a second one of the first components simultaneously have a fixed relationship with different sets of second components as in Claim 1.

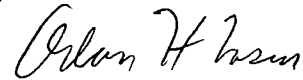
For at least these reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and Claims 2-15 and 76-77 that depend from Claim 1 are each patentably distinguished over Locke and are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, independent Claims 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65, Claims 17-27 and 78-79 that depend from Claim 16, Claims 29-38 and 80-81 that depend from Claim 28, Claims 40-52 and 82-83 that depend from Claim 39, Claim 54-64 and 84-85 that depend from Claim 53, and Claims 66-75 and 86-87 that depend from Claim 65 are each patentably distinguished over Locke and are in condition for allowance.

For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65, Claims 2-15 and 76-77 that depend from Claim 1, Claims 17-27 and 78-79 that depend from Claim 16, Claims 29-38 and 80-81 that depend from Claim 28, Claims 40-52 and 82-83 that depend from Claim 39, Claim 54-64 and 84-85 that depend from Claim 53, and Claims 66-75 and 86-87 that depend from Claim 65 are each patentably distinguished over Locke in view of Miller and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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